The Baronial Shaft

DECEMBER 2002

AS XXXVII

The Official Newsletter of the Barony of al-Barran

The Barony of al-Barran

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Lord Tancred, Lord Branduibh, Lord Thomas

Condotierri
Captain: Lord Rudgar
Lady Bronwen, Brynn

Master Swordsman
Qara Gan Cherbe

Premiere Blade
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Protector of the Baroness's Heart
Lord Charles Roberts

Lord of Outlandish
Duke Kynan

Lady of May
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Don Ragno

Knight Bannceret
Syr Darius

Flower of Chivalry
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Publication Information

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Calendar of Events

DECEMBER

18	LORD OF THE RINGS DEMO
21	AL-BARRAN'S MIDWINTER **
22	WAR PRACTICE **

JANUARY

11	CITADEL TWELFTH NIGHT *Citadel of the Southern Pass*
11	SOUTHERN REGIONAL WAR PRACTICE *Citadel*
25	WINTER WOLF** *Blaiddwyn*

FEBRUARY

1	SOUTHERN WAR PRACTICE** *St. Golias*
12-17	ESTRELLA WAR XIX** *Phoenix*

MARCH

8-9	OUTLANDS CROWN TOURNEY *(TBA)*
29-30	AL-BARRAN'S SPRING HORSE FAIRE
29-30	KINGDOM HERALDS & SCRIBES *Caerthe*

*** Indicates attendance by Their Excellencies*

From the Baron and Baroness

Unto the kind and generous people of al-Barran, do Sir Trevor and Lady Fermina send warm wishes for the holiday season.

November was a busy month with many opportunities for each of us to demonstrate our ability to give back to the community and to the game.

Toys for Tots was a wonderful success. Once again al-Barran, you have impressed us with your kindness. We raised almost 1,000 toys for under privileged children in our area. That is a great feat we can all be proud of! Thank you, Lord Cristobal for organizing such a fantastic day!

Sir Trevor was honored to attend the Saint Martin's Day Tournament. The knights and ladies of the Company were gracious hosts giving immensely of their skill at arms and skill in the arts. The feats on the field were examples of honor and chivalry to rival any other tournament in the Knowne World. The money raised from the day will be donated to a worthy cause to benefit the kingdom.

We were saddened that we were unable to attend the Masked Ball. Although mundanities kept us from being there in person, we were with you in spirit. (And it has come to our attention that we were with you in likeness! Lady Bronwen and Lady Isabella dressed as Sir Trevor and Lady Fermina and attended the Ball!) We have heard that this Masked Ball was the most fun yet! There was plenty of dancing through the evening and the food was excellent! Well-done Lady Dahlia, Lady Tessa, and Lady Divina!

Midwinter Celebration is fast upon us. The hall is sure to be more beautiful than a Sultan's tent has ever been. It will be filled with merchants, carpets, pillows, dancing ladies, musicians, peacocks, and palm trees. For those of you that would like the special honor of sitting at the reserved low tables at the head of the hall, please submit your reservations promptly, as the number of these very desirable seats are limited. The feast is sure to be superb. The autocrats have taken special care with the lighting for the hall so as not to have to turn on the bright overhead lighting for court. We invite you all to join us for this day of revelry.

Sunday, December 22, the day following Midwinter there will be a regional War Practice here in al-Barran. WAR! There will be a scaled down version of the "Mountain Pass" battle to be held at Estrella War. This should be an extremely fun opportunity to really gain some familiarity with the battles planned for war. No fighter planning on attending Estrella War should miss this day in the park.

Unto those valiant warriors who have trained with the barony and will fight with her at War, now is the time to petition for the honor and privilege of wearing a Guido. These symbols of a right and true al-Barranian warrior are made by the hand of the Baroness and bestowed upon worthy individuals Saturday night at War. We will accept petitions until Estrella War but greatly appreciate receiving them ahead of time so that Fermina may know how many Guidos to make.

May you and yours remain healthy and happy.

Sir Trevor *Fermina*

From the Hospitaller

Greetings,

I hope that everyone had a most wonderful time at our Toys For Tots event this year. It is still amazing to see so many from so many different backgrounds come together for a outstanding reason to help children have a joyful holiday season. HUZZAH!!!

Secondly, I just want to thank my deputies Isabella and Gwenydd for all their time and hard work that they have done. The office of Hospitaller runs a lot smoother with Ladies as wonderful as these.

We are getting up to full speed into feast season. This is the time of year where you can invited your more quiet co-workers, family, and friends to come and sit down to be social with us, before you show them that we tend to hit each other a lot at times. If you are in need of feast gear so that you and yours may come and dine with us. Please contact Gwenydd at 839-7302 or by email gwenydd_sastra@yahoo.com, at least 7 days in advance.

Last but not least. WAR does fast approach us, and WAR practice is in full swing. But please remember that the days are colder so dress appropriately. Stretch before taking the field, you will hurt less tomorrow. Drink lots of fluid. His Majesty did state that he needs as many able bodies this year so don't take short cuts on your health or your armor, we really don't want to leave anyone at home.

Be Safe,
Lady Bronwen Blackwell

From the Minister of Arts and Sciences

Greetings Good Gentles,

May you have good health!

This month I have nothing to report.

In Service,
Leonore of Black Diamond

Regional War Practices

December 8, 2002:	Northern Regional War Practice	*Unser Hafen*
December 22, 2002:	Central Regional War Practice	*al-Barran*
January 5, 2003:	Northern Regional War Practice	*Caerthe*
January 11, 2003:	Southern Regional War Practice	*Citadel*
February 1, 2003:	Southern Regional War Practice	*St. Golias*

From the Chronicler

Merry met,

The Cover art for December is from the pen, imagination and skills of Elijah Tynker. Thank you, Elijah for the wonderful cover art. Check out the back cover for the first of three cartoons on siege engines inspired by last Estrella War from the pen of Eldoneric. *Pony World* once again features someone near and dear to our wonderful barony. Check it out and see who. Thank you, Michael McQuillan for all of your hard work in making *Pony World* happen. Who knows, one day if might be YOU!

December's Weaving Knowledge Exchange & Workshop is canceled due to it falling on the Friday before Midwinter, so look for the next weaving workshop to happen in January. If you wish for a certain topic to be handled at a weaving workshop please contact Lady Monika the Fair about setting up the topic you are interested in, her phone number is listed on the regular activities page.

Coming in January: look for the winner of the Cover Art Contest, see who will have their artwork on the February *Baronial Shaft* issue for WAR. Also check out the second in the siege engine cartoons by Eldoneric. Look for a few jerky marinade recipes for War preparations.

As always I am looking for articles, artwork, songs, poems, etc. for printing in the *Baronial Shaft.*

In Service,
Lady Kathurs

The Twelve Days of Christmas: Correspondence by *John Julius Norwich, Quentin Blake (Illustrator)*
In this delightful spoof, a young woman sends daily thank-you letters to her unseen admirer. At first grateful for the charming partridge in the lovely little pear tree, she is ultimately driven to legal recourse after the arrival of the French hens, pipers piping, and maids-a-milking. Color illustrations.

Quotes & proverbs in this issue from:
All Christmas book information from http://www.Amazon.com

Clipart in this issue from:
Chronicler files

Web Sites
Al-Barran's website: http://www.al-barran.org
Blaiddwyn's website: http://www.unm.edu/~sca/index.html
Outlands' website: http://www.outlands.org
SCA's website: http://www.sca.org

Toys for Tots Thank You's

Greetings!

We had a great turn out at this year's Toys for Tots and we collected 997 Toys!

I wish to thank Their Majesties Jaxarticus & Kathryn, and Her Excellency Leah of the Citadel of the Southern Pass for coming to our event. I wish to thank Their Excellencies Trevor and Fermina, and THL Stjerne for allowing me to autocrat this event. And thanks to all who traveled from other groups to attend our event.

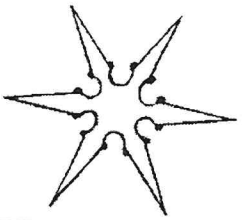
I also wish to thank everyone who helped out on the Scorpions hockey game demo, especially: THL James David for coordinating it; Master Adam for heralding it; Dona Maria for creating a terrific scroll; and all the fighters: HRM Jaxarticus, Sir Hrorek Wolfson, THL Thorgrim von Kebenhaven, Lord Wolfgar Neumann, and Lord Arslan

I wish to thank all my volunteers for the Toys for Tots event. An event is not really run by the autocrat, but rather by the volunteers. Jade McDuff, Lady Roma, Leof & Shadow Dancer for collecting toys; Baroness Emma & Lady Danica for running the lists; Lady Gwenydd for coordinating waterbearers, Lady Alia for helping her and the platoon of munchkin waterbearers. Duchess Elisheva for sponsoring the "Scorpion in any Medium" contest; Lady Ahzlinn for donating the sword; HE Thorkell for making the Baldric; Lady Dalia for creating the prize favor and site tokens; Lord Tancred for marshalling the heavy weapons tournament; Bitzmallah for donating the sword and for marshalling the light weapons tournament; Lord Aethelwulf for heralding court in my stead and for coordinating the heralds; Master Balthazar for heralding; Lady Bronwyn Blackwell for the wonderful stews; Lady Isabella for doing troll and coordinating the prize table; Lord Morgan, Lady Brena and Robert for picking up and trucking everything to the site; and to all the set up and take down crew. Lady Brena for the spectacular Spanish garb I wore. Master Adam and THL James David for giving me advice and support; My household, Rising Phoenix, for their moral support; HE Sebastian & friends for their hospitality.

To all the fighters, prize donors, toy counters, and everyone else who helped out, thank you! And thanks most of all to everyone who donated toys!

And have you heard of the new contest? If the populous brings 100 toys or more on December 8th to Jeanne Bellamah Park, you will get to see me, yes, me, belly dance at Midwinter! Scary as that seems, a lot of people want to see me dance!

In Service,
Lord Cristobal Vasquez de Narriahondo



Lord of The Rings Demo

Barony of al-Barran
Wednesday, December 18, A.S. XXXVII (2002)
6 pm to 7 pm
United Artists Four Hills Theatre

The Barony of al-Barran has been invited to provide a demo for the opening of Lord of the Rings II: The Two Towers. The demo will begin at 6 pm at the United Artists Four Hills Theatre and end at 7 pm when the movie begins. We will be fighting, distributing newcomer information, and providing atmosphere.

All demo participants will see The Two Towers FREE that evening. Since we are limited to no more than 25 free tickets, all interested parties must contact Master Adam Stedefast, by Monday December 16 in order to be placed on the list. More specific information will be given when the interested gentles call or e-mail to be placed on the list.

Please contact Master Adam at 839-7302 or stedefast@aol.com for more information and to be placed on the list of attendees.

Thank you.

In service,
Adam Stedefast. OP

The Story of the Other Wise Man *by Henry Van Dyke, Henry Van Dyke, Leo F. Buscaglia (Introduction)*

The Three Kings, Wise Men and Magi are all names given to the first men to see and recognize Jesus. Little is known of their lives except for what we've read in the Bible. Over the years, many stories have been written concerning the Magi, but I feel that this is the most beautiful of them all.

This poignant fable concerns Artaban who was a member of the ancient priesthood of the Magi. He had been watching the heavens and had seen the signs that it was the time for an old prophecy to be fulfilled. "There shall come a star out of Jacob, and a scepter shall arise out of Israel."

Artaban sold his house and all that he owned and purchased three beautiful jewels to be given to the new King of Israel. The gifts were a beautiful blue sapphire which was like a piece of the night sky; a ruby that was even more red than a sunrise; and a pearl as pure as the peak of a snow mountain. Artaban was to meet and travel with three other members of the ancient priesthood, Balthazar, Caspar and Melchoir, so they could follow the new star of Israel together.

On his way to meet with his friends, he stops to help a dying man and is never able to catch up with the other Magi. Artaban spends his life helping others, but always seeking Jesus. The beautiful ending is worth waiting for. A very inspirational story!

Marley's Ghost
by Mark H. Osmun
Before Scrooge, before Dickens, there was Jacob Marley.

In Charles Dickens' classic, A Christmas Carol, *Ebenezer Scrooge owes his salvation to one man: his former partner, the late Jacob Marley. Yet despite Marley's crucial role we know him only as a shadow. Until now.*

Fugitive, prodigy, gambler, miner, mentor, corruptor and partner of Scrooge, Jacob Marley suffers a life in which he is both victim and villain, noble and vile. After his death, Marley's ghost wanders a frozen hell seeking answers and redemption. There he plays one last role: that of a pawn in the battle between Light and Dark. Ultimately, Marley must choose between God and the Devil, between sacrifice and betrayal, as Mankind's future hangs in the balance.

Marley's Ghost, a dark tale about the winter of the soul, shines a brilliant, new light on Dickens' immortal story.

A.S. XXXVII/2002

Sunday	Monday	Tue
1 Fighter & Rapier Practice Court Dancing	2 Gammer Gurton's Needle	
8 Fighter & Rapier Practice Court Dancing	9 Gammer Gurton's Needle	
15 Fighter & Rapier Practice	16 Gammer Gurton's Needle	
22 Fighter & Rapier Practice *War Practice*	23	*Chri*
29 Fighter & Rapier Practice	30	*Happy N*

A Midnight Carol *by Patricia K. Davis*

It was the bleakest winter of Charles Dickens's life. In 1843, with his most recent books bringing in almost no income and his wife pregnant with their fifth child, Dickens had to face facts. Only an innate sense of courage could make him risk losing everything and result in one of the greatest literary gifts ever given to the world: the magical A Christmas Carol.

December 2002/A.S. XXXVII

sday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5	6	7 Archery Practice
10	11	12 Heraldry Meeting A&S K.E. & Work-shops	13	14
17 CITIZEN'S MEETING	18 *Lord of the Rings Demo*	19	20	21 Archery Practice *Midwinter*
24 *stmas Eve*	25 *Merry Christmas!*	26 Heraldry Meeting A&S K.E. & Work-shops	27	28
31 *ew Year's Eve!*				

December 1 Advent starts
December 19 Full Moon
December 21 Winter Solstice
December 25 Christmas Day
December 31 New Year's Eve

al-Barran Midwinter & War Practice

Barony of al-Barran
December 21-22, A.S. XXXVII (2002)
Feast: NM State Fair Grounds, Leon Harms Youth Hall, Albuquerque, NM
Remember to tell the gate guard that you are with the SCA.
Site Opens: 11am; Site Closes: 11pm
War Practice: Jeanne Bellamah Park
Site Opens: 10am; Site Closes: 4pm
Feast Site Fees: - Site only $10 (no off-board seating is available)
- Site and Feast $15; - Children 7 and under Site and Feast $8
- Make checks payable to SCA - al-Barran
Alcohol Status: As with years past, alcohol must be purchased from the bar and consumed inside of the hall.

Come one, come all to al-Barran's Midwinter! Enjoy the atmosphere of our Middle Eastern Bazaar while feasting on delicacies from distant lands, enjoying exotic entertainment, surveying the works of our Kingdom's artisans, and sampling the beverages in our English Pub.

If you wish to dive into the experience and take your feast seated on the floor, Sultan style, please pre-register (and pre-pay) to reserve your space. The table will be provided but bring your own cushions for comfort and table decorations for atmosphere.

The proposed Midwinter Feast schedule, subject to change:
Peer Circles (prior to regular site opening)
-Laurel: 9 am
-Pelican: 9:45 am
-Chivalry: 10:30 am

Site opens: 11 am
Opening court: 2 pm
Feast: 3 pm
Closing court: 5 pm
Lights on: 10 pm
Site closes: 11 pm

War Practice is at Jeanne Bellamah Park on Sunday, beginning at 10 am until all our foes have been vanquished and there are new stories to tell.

Our delicious feast menu includes three removes featuring lamb, chicken and vegetarian delicacies. The full menu, and list of ingredients is available on our website (see address below). Please contact our Feast Coordinator with any dietary restrictions. Also there will be a dessert competition sponsored by Mistress Monica von Zell for the pleasure of the populace.

Are you interested in merchanting or displaying your Middle Eastern related items or skills at our bazaar? If so, space is available on a first come, first serve basis. Please contact Baroness Emma for further information.

If you have any questions please visit our website: **http://www.unm.edu/~sca/midwinter/** or contact one of the autocrats directly.

Directions to site: *Feast:* From I-25, take the Lomas exit and go East to San Pedro. Turn right (South) on San Pedro to gate 4 of the NM State Fairgrounds. Turn left at the gate and you will take your first left and proceed to the big pink building at the end of the road.
War Practice: From I-40, take the Eubank exit (#165) and go North to Lomas. Turn right (East) on Lomas to Tomasita. Turn left (North) on Tomasita. The park will be on your right and we will be in the South-East corner.

Contact information for Autocrat(s):
Baroness Emma of Essex, 505-730-1967, baroness_e@yahoo.com
THL Tana a le Espirit Forte, 505-265-3142, thltana@aol.com
Ld Ryan Brunloc, 505-265-3142, brunlocr@aol.com

Other contact information:
Feast: THL Morris O'Fiach, 505-474-4292

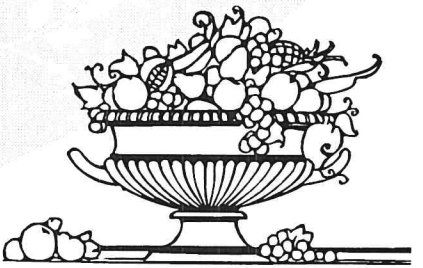
Reservations address:
SCA - al-Barran – Midwinter
PO Box 27676
Albuquerque, NM 87125

Make checks payable to SCA - al-Barran and please note if you are requesting on-floor seating. Contact Baroness Emma for additional reservation information.

Dessert Competition at Midwinter

Europe received sugar by way of the Middle East in the Middle Ages. Thus, in keeping with Middle Eastern theme of this year's Midwinter and its feast, a dessert competition will be held at this event. Prizes will be awarded for the best desserts in these categories:

1) in keeping with the theme,
2) most delectable, and
3) best presentation.



Entries will be received between 2 pm and 5 pm for judging, and will be enjoyed by the populace following closing court during the evening revelry. Information as to what table or room to bring the entries will be provided at the troll's registration table. Documentation must include a list of ingredients and the maker's name and group. The history of the dessert and its culture is also encouraged. For information or ideas contact: Monika von Zell, 565-1267 or knapppm@aol.com

Citadel Twelfth Night

Barony of the Citadel of the Southern Pass
January 11th A.S. XXXVII (2003)
Site: Loretto Academy, 1200 Hardaway, El Paso, Tx 79903
Site opens: 9am and closes: 11pm
Fees (all include feast):Adult- $15.00;
children (ages 7-14)-$8.00; children (ages 7 & under)-free
Site is discreetly wet when guard is present

Their Excellencies Sir Conrade and Mistress Leah, Baron and Baroness of the Citadel of the Southern Pass invite you to join them on the pilgrimage road to Santiago de Campostella. Pause on your journey to feast with them in the Citadel on the 11th day of January. Enjoy the exoctic foods of Southern Spain, and bask in the atmosphere of the medieval pilgrimage road. Entertainment is planned. There will be war practice for the Southern Army, time to be announced. We have SHOWERs there!

Directions to the site: Take I-10 to Raynolds Exit. Go north on Raynolds past Montana until you see the SCA signs for Loretto Academy. There is a fenced parking lot enclosure or on street parking available.

For reservations contact the autocrat (no need to prepay)

Autocrat: Lady Dimiana bint al-Katib (Alexandra Ceely) 6108 Fiesta Dr., El Paso, TX 79912 email- alexmvsc@aol.com ; phone- 915-842-8603

Feastocrats: Lady Reanna (Kelly Higgins) 915-845-8472
or email- citadelmt@aol.com
and Lady Alienor (Anita Ruble) email- ruble1942@aol.com

Winter Wolf

College of Blaiddwyn
January 25th A.S. XXXVII (2003)
Site: UNM Mitchell Hall.,
University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131
Site opens: 11am; Site Closes: 8 pm
Site Fee: FREE
Potluck feast
The site is dry

Hear the chilling howl of the wind thru the sleeping trees on al-Barran's lands. A silver wolf raises his muzzle sky ward catching the scent of far off danger in the air. He throws his mighty head back and his howl joins the winter winds. The rest of the pack in the near forest joins their brother's cry filling the snowy land. The chorus of howls rises ever skyward and across the lands warning "We are pack. To attack one is to attack us all!" Who among you will have the strength to lead our wolves to WAR! Heavy fighters far and wide are welcomed to participate for the honor of Wolves Champion and be the College of Blaiddwyn's Freki (Fierce) leader. The college will also

be hosting a Light Tournament & Defender of the Lore competition. We will be having many A&S Classes and a potluck dinner to follow the day's events.

The theme for this year's event is "Prepping For War." There will be several classes teaching towards items that will be admissible as War points for Estrella. No Site Fee will be charged, but there may be a donation requested for specific classes. Classes will run from 12:00 until 4:00 ish, with a pot-luck dinner following and the Defender of the Lore bardic competition as the entertainment. The list for the tournaments will open at 11:00; lists will be at the Duck Pond. A schedule of classes will be published in the January Shaft and posted on the College Web Site: **http://www.unm.edu/~sca** .

Directions to the Site: From I-25, take the Martin Luther King, Jr. exit east towards the mountain. Go past the light at the intersection of MLK, Jr. and University onto UNM campus. Turn left onto Redondo Road and take the first right into parking area. From the parking area, walk northeast to the Duck Pond.

Pertinent Info: The site is handicap accessible with full modern conveniences. No smoking inside the building and the site is DRY.

For more information you can call or email
the autocrat - Lady Danica Nemanjaviaea at (505) 292-5649;
email dleahneumann@yahoo.com, or
the co-autocrat Adelena Marie at (505) 710-1767;
email adelena_marie@yahoo.com.

Smoked Meat Article

By Sir Stefan of the Wanderers

There are several events that we travel to where the convenience of smoked meats almost outweighs the gastronomic pleasures that they provide. I have been preparing smoked meats for over 20 years for myself and members of my household with the majority of the complaints limited to "is that all there is?" Smoked meats keep longer due to the smoking and brine mixture used during their preparation and are easy to bring to the table as they don't require any additional prep time. Re-heating is optional.

The selection of meats to smoke are only limited to your palate. I have smoked fish (the oilier the better, as in the salomoids), birds (chickens, turkey and duck), hams, brisket, sausage, jerky, beef roasts, elk and venison (as they usually are less fatty I might marinade these cuts after removing from the brine solution).

To start smoking you will need a smoker. I use a carcass of a former round box refrigerator, having removed all non metal parts, lining the bottom with fire brick and installing racks and hangers. I add a water pot near the fire to add some moisture to the some during the cooking process. You are not handy with making your own, there are many commercial models available. I use both charcoal briquettes and wood for my smoking, with the key being the types of wood. Do not use pine or other woods that are high in creosote. My favorites are the fruit woods, with mesquite and hickory not far behind.

(Continued on page 16)

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Again, this is a matter of taste. I cut my wood up into various size chunks, no larger that 4" x 4" and soak them in water for at least a day before the smoking process.

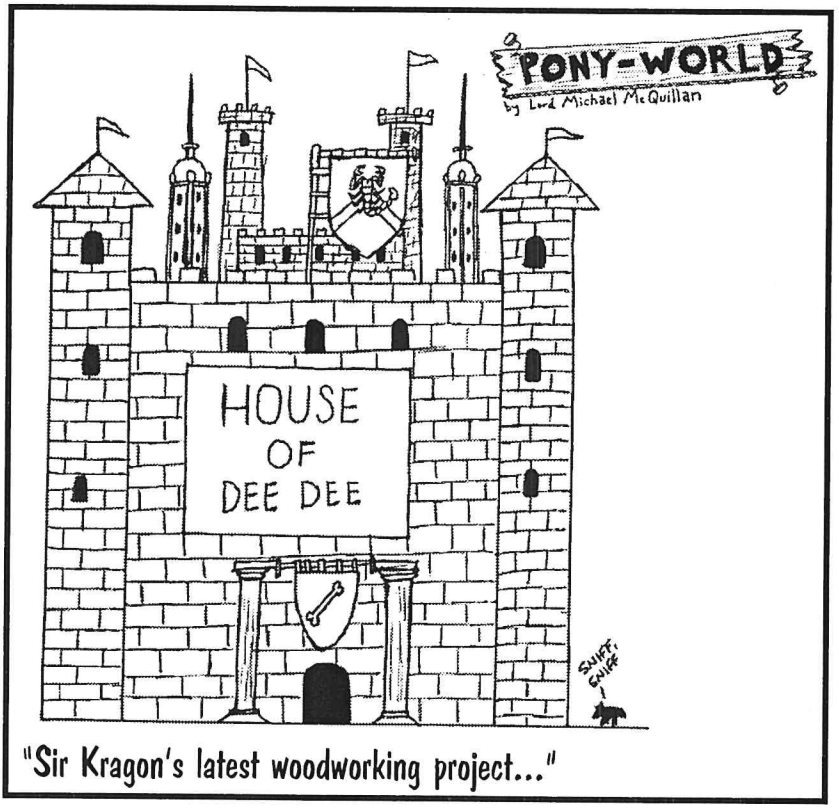
After selecting what meats you will be smoking, you should remove any excess fats and the silver skin that separates layers. Keeping some fat for the smoking process is good, as it will keep the meat from getting too dry. Briskets are good examples of meat cuts that need some trimming. When I first place the meats in the smoker, I place the fatty layer on top to begin. After the meat has been trimmed and all innards removed, I place the meats in a heavy salt/sugar solution (1/2 cup salt per gallon of water) usually with herbs (rosemary is my favorite, as I also use it in the smoking process). If the meat is very large as in a whole turkey, I'll cut it in half. Chickens smoke faster and more thoroughly when cut in half. Leave fish whole. I soak the meats in the brine between 2-3 days. I usually use a cooler with frozen water bottles to keep the brine solution below 40 degrees. After removing the meat from the brine, I rinse the meats of all brining solution and pat the meats dry. I then like to let them remain in the refrigerator uncovered overnight to remove excess moisture. Before placing them in the smoker I like to prepare a "dust" of red chile powder, rosemary, salt and pepper, and use it liberally. Again, do this to your taste. For some cuts, especially in preparing jerky, I like to soak the meat slices in a marinade of soy sauce and herbs before smoking.

Once the meats are ready for the smoker, start a fire of briquettes. Once the briquettes have caught you can add the meats to your racks (fat side up to start) and then add the soaked wood to start the smoking. The fire should be kept low, but high enough to maintain a temp of 165 degrees. You should add briquettes and wood as the need arises to maintain the proper temp and a good smoky environment for the meat. The smoking process does take time and usually several stouts to get the cook through the process. An occasional squirt of a favorite marinade during the cooking process should be considered. Turning the meat every so often keeps the juices in the center and helps keep the meat from drying out too soon. Before removing from the smoker, consider a sauce, especially for the fowl. I like a combination of fruit preserves and herbs. The meats are done when their internal temperature reaches 165 degrees, the juices stop flowing around the joints in fowl or the meat is "just done." This process might only take 8-12 hours for smaller cuts of meat, trout, and sausage or over 24 hours for larger pieces. After removing from the smoker, place in refrigerator or freezer, wrapping properly or eat it.

After removing the meats from the smoker you have to taste it to make sure that it is acceptable for your guests. Once again, I prefer to taste it with a good stout.

This article was meant to be a starting point for smoking meats. Experimentation is good, try different woods, meats, seasonings, and stouts. And if you see me wandering about at Estrella or Grand Outlandish looking hungry, offer me a slice of that smoked brisket...and a stout.

This article was printed in the April 2001 issue of the Baronial Shaft *and is reprinted here with Sir Stefan of the Wanderers' permission.*



Court Dancing Article

I wish to thank THL Teuton for the wonderful gift he made and gave us, of a new portable hole for our 2nd Maypole. I also wish to thank Roma's boss, Kathy, at Wild Oats, who donated to us a wonderful wooden crate for carrying court dance equipment and to use as a "table" for putting our boom box on for our "musicians" so that the sound will carry better in the park. Thanks to Roma, for following up on Wild Oat's promise to donate the crate after the demo we did there and for delivering it to me. Finally, a very special personal thank you to Lord Sean for his continued support of court dancing and his generosity to me.

I hope you availed yourself of the opportunity to learn court dancing from Lady Isabella before and during the Masked Ball last month. There will be court dancing available in the English Pub (cash bar room, formerly used in past years for middle eastern dancing) if there is time after court at Mid-Winter. I will be holding court dance practices in December at fighter practice park (Jeanne Bellamah Park) from 12:30 to 2:30 pm on Sundays, December 1st and 8th. The classes are free and anyone, age 7 and up is welcome.

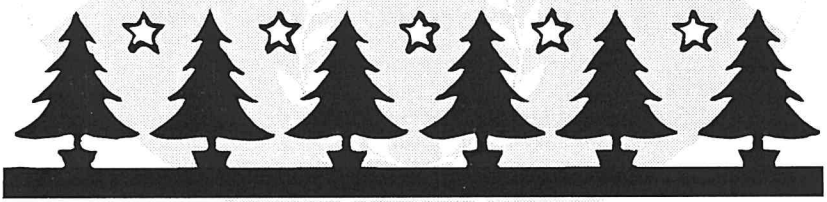
Yours in service to the dream,
Lady Barbara

Gammer Gurton's Needle

In December, Gammer Gurton's Needle will meet at Lady Diana's house at 2525 Chelwood Park NE #B. The directions are: Make your best route to Juan Tabo and Menaul. East on Menaul to Chelwood Park, there is a traffic light there. Left (north) on Chelwood Park. About half way between Menaul and Candelaria is where you are headed. Left on Claremont. Go ½ block to the first driveway you come to. Left into that driveway. This is actually parking provided for the four-plexes, so parking along Claremont may be easier. Call her at 271-1263 if you need more directions. We will not meet December 23 or 30th. We are taking our usual December "rest", preparing for Midwinter and continuing making and decorating our muffs (thanks to Duchess Elisheva and Mistress Celine for this project) Our goal (besides keeping ourselves warm!) is to make enough muffs for the King and Queen's largesse. And thanks to Emir, we are documenting muffs to early 1500s Venetian. Also this month, we will continue to have "ask the teacher" sessions. Ask for help in any needlework area and we will try to pair you with someone experienced in that area. Rosamond has agreed to teach easy Period bobbin braid lace techniques for several members so contact her if you are interested so she can bring supplies. Get ready for January when Emer will teach metal thread embroidery.

Gammer Gurton's Needle is an interest group exploring many different threadwork techniques including but not limited to embroidery, lacis, netting, bobbin or needle lace, beading, needlepoint, inkle loom, cardweaving, etc. Please join us. We meet every Monday evening at 7pm. (we don't meet in garb). You can work on the month's emphasis or bring your own project. If you can't make the meetings, we have copies of instructions and patterns and can make arrangements for individual meetings with teachers.
Website: **http://www.themissingpiece.com/ggn/**

"My fair long straight needle, that was mine only treasure. The first day of my sorrow is. And last of my pleasure" -from the play, The Loss of Gammer Gurton's Needle, 1575.



Equestrian Practice for both al-Barran

Practice will be held on the third Saturday of each month starting at 11:00 am. The following dates have been set aside for practice. *Please call Lady Dubheasa at 232-2608 for directions to the site and for whether a practice is happening.*

2002
December: 21st.

2003
January: 18th.
February: 22nd.

Regular Activities

Fighter Practice
Sundays, 11 am to 4 pm, Jeanne Bellamah Park., on Tomasita between Mountain and Constitution, east of Eubank. *Contact: Lord Mordygan 286-0870*

Rapier Practice
Sundays, Jeanne Bellamah Park, on Tomasita between Mountain and Constitution, east of Eubank. *Contact: Coinneach 343-8362*

Archery Practice
1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month. The practice range is at Master Torc's & Lady Sylvia's home. *Contact: Oengus of Greymist by email at archery@al-barran.org*

Citizens Meeting
3rd Tuesday of every month, 6:30 pm at Hayes Middle School Library, 1100 Texas St NE. *Contact: THL Stjerne 861-2907*

Heraldic Submission and Commenting Meeting
The 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, 6:30 pm, at Earl Cathyn and Lady Alia's home, 1223 Fruit St NW, Albuquerque. *Contact: THL Pendar 866-4369 for additional information and for directions call Alia or Cathyn at 244-9525.*

Court Dance Practice
For December Court Dance practices will be held on Sundays, December 1st and 8th and the times are 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm, at fighter practice park (Jeanne Bellamah Park) Everyone, ages 7 and up are welcome. *Contact: Lady Barbara 293-7453 for dates of practice.*

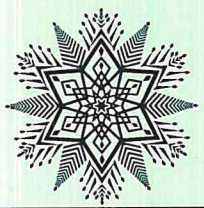
Equestrian Practice for al-Barran
Practice will be held on the first and third Thursday from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm and on the third Saturday starting at 11:00 am. The following dates have been set aside for practice in the coming months. In 2002 December: 21st. In 2003 January: 18th. February: 22nd. *Please call Lady Dubheasa at 232-2608 for directions to the site and for whether a practice is happening.*

Gammer Gurton's Needle
The study and application of embroidery, lace, and other needlework techniques. *Contact: Lady Rosamond 865-9082*

Arts and Sciences Knowledge Exchange and Workshops
Topics to include: felting, lampwork beads, stone carving, soap, leather, conserves, cooking and much more. To meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at 7 pm at 10417 Palo Verde Place NW. *Contact: Lady Scia 344-0094 for more information, when a workshop is happening and directions.*

Weaving Knowledge Exchange & Workshops
The study & application of all types of weaving & it's history. Third Friday of every month at 7 pm. *Contact: Lady Monika the Fair 323-5569 for more information and directions.*

Blaiddwyn Project Conclave
Come and join Blaiddwyn College at their project conclave to show off your latest projects or to pick up some new ones. Bring a project to work on or to share. *Contact Blaiddwyn's Arts and Science Officer: Emer Fitton 293-1206 or kbutler@salud.unm.edu for days, times and*



Timothy Cratchit's Christmas Carol, 1917: A Sequel to the Charles Dickens Classic by Dale Powell
A country rocked by war! Racial profiling and stereotyping! Sound like today's headlines It was also true in 1917 Cincinnati, where the Scrooge saga picks up-74 years after the original, 81 Timothy Cratchit is visiting by a benevolent, spectral Ebenezer Scrooge.

The Baronial Shaft
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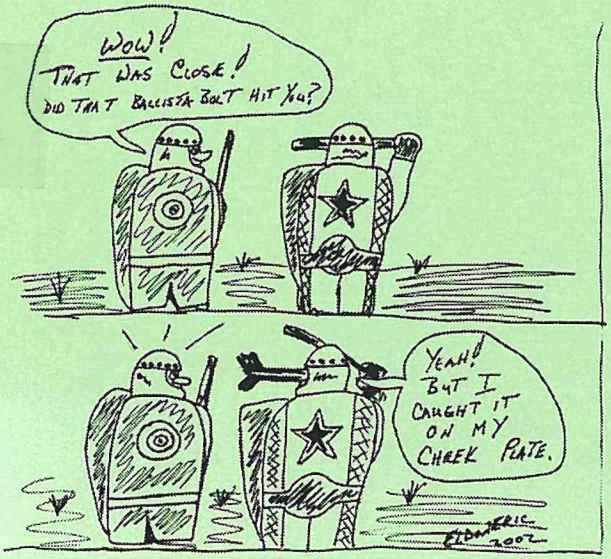

Subscriptions expires: 08/01/03

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